

Message Text

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PAGE 01 REYKJA 00268 250932Z

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6072

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UNCLAS REYKJAVIK 0268

FOR CU/WE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, IC

SUBJECT: CU: REQUEST FOR SPEAKER

1. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN REQUESTED BY THE CITY OF REYKJAVIK TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER AN AMERICAN SPEAKER CAN BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR A NORDIC MUNICIPAL DATA CONFERENCE HERE MAY 22-25.

2. THE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE WILL BRING TO REYKJAVIK FROM THE NORDIC COUNTRIES SOME 150 OFFICIALS AND POLITICIANS CONCERNED WITH APPLICATION OF COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY TO MUNICIPAL AFFAIRS.

3. THE CONFERENCE HOSTS SEEK AN AMERICAN EXPERT WHO CAN SPEAK FOR UP TO ONE HOUR MAY 25 ON THE COMPUTER AND THE FUTURE OF MUNICIPAL WORK. THIS SHOULD BE DEFINED AS THE FAIRLY NEAR FUTURE, RATHER THAN THE BLUE-SKY FUTURE. THE HOSTS WOULD PREFER AN EXPERT WORKING IN THIS FIELD IN AN AMERICAN MUNICIPALITY OR THE LIKE. SECOND CHOICE WOULD BE AN ACADEMICIAN EXPERT IN THE FIELD. THE HOSTS SPECIFICALLY RULE OUT A SPEAKER FROM A COMPUTER COMPANY. THE PRESENTATION WOULD BE IN ENGLISH AND WOULD BE FOLLOWED BY A DISCUSSION PERIOD.

4. THE CONFERENCE HAS A VERY SMALL BUDGET AND COULD NOT CONTRIBUTE TOWARD COSTS. IF A SUITABLE SPEAKER WERE FOUND, USIS REYKJAVIK COULD FUND HIS PER DIEM AND A NOMINAL HONORARIUM. THE SPEAKER NEED BE PRESENT AT THE CONFERENCE ONLY MAY 25.

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WHILE HE WOULD BE WELCOME FOR THE FULL CONFERENCE, THE HOSTS

POINT OUZ IT WILL BE CONDUCTED IN THE SCANDINAVIAN LANGUAGES.

5. THE EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN ASCERTAINING POSSIBLE AVAILABILITY OF A SPEAKER MEETING THE ABOVE QUALIFICATIONS, PREFERABLY ONE WHO WOULD BREAK A TRANS-ATLANTIC TRIP IN REYKJAVIK, THUS ELIMINATING OR GREATLY REDUCING TRAVEL COSTS.

6. THE EMBASSY HAS POINTED OUT TO THE HOSTS IT MAY BE DIFFICULT TO MEET THEIR SEVERAL SPECIFICATIONS. HOWEVER, THE CONFERENCE REPRESENTS AN UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT TO AN INFLUENTIAL NORDIC-WIDE GROUP A PRESENTATION ON US LEADERSHIP IN THIS IMPORTANT TECHNOLOGICAL FIELD AND WE THEREFORE REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE.
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